

RIVER SUCK (IRELAND).

A B S T R A C T

OF

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 10 July 1873;—for,

COPIES " of all CORRESPONDENCE which passed between the Owners or Occupiers of the River SUCK, and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, relative to the proposed DRAINAGE of that RIVER in the Years 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848:"

" Of any APPLICATIONS (Official or otherwise) which have been made since that Period, with the Replies, if any:"

" Of the recent CORRESPONDENCE between Major General Mitchell and Mr. Holmes (on the part of the Sufferers in the Suck District), the Board of Works in Dublin, and the Treasury, relative to the DRAINAGE of the SUCK:"

" Of the following QUESTIONS and ANSWERS given before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the River Shannon (Navigation and Drainage); viz., 1318, 1319, 1320, 1354 to 1363, 1404 and 1405, and 2413 to 2419, by Colonel Mc-Kerlie, and 1651 and 1652, by Sir Richard Griffith, Bart.:"

" And, of any APPLICATIONS or REPRESENTATIONS made to the Shannon Navigation Commissioners by the Riparian Proprietors or others suffering from the INUNDATIONS of the SHANNON since the reported completion of the Works authorised under the Act 2 & 3 Vict. c. 61, with the REPLIES to the same."

By Order,

Office of Public Works, Dublin, }
December 1873.

E. HORNSBY,
Secretary.

(Major Trench.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
1 May 1874.

Copies of Applications or Representations made to the Shannon Navigation Commissioners by the Riparian Proprietors or others suffering from the Inundations of the Shannon since the reported completion of the Works authorised under the Act 2 & 3 Vict. c. 61, with the Replies to the same - - - - - p. 1

Copies of the recent Correspondence between Major General Mitchell and Mr. Holmes (on the part of the Sufferers in the Sock District), the Board of Works in Dublin, and the Treasury, relative to the Drainage of the Sock - - - - - p. 9

Copy of all Correspondence which passed between the Owners or Occupiers of the River Sock and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, relative to the proposed Drainage of that River in the Years 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848, *Not printed.*

Copies of Applications (Official or otherwise) which have been made since that Period, with the Replies - - - - - *Not printed.*

Copy of the following Questions and Answers given before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the River Shannon (Navigation and Drainage); viz., 1318, 1319, 1320, 1354 to 1363, 1404 and 1405, and 2143 to 2419, by Colonel M'Kerlie, and 1651 and 1652, by Sir Richard Griffith, Bart.—See Parliamentary Paper, No. 444 of Session 1865.

C O N T E N T S.

COPIES of APPLICATIONS or REPRESENTATIONS made to the Shannon Navigation Commissioners by the Riparian Proprietors or others suffering from the INUNDATIONS of the Shannon since the reported completion of the Works authorised under the Act 2 & 3 Vict. c. 61, with the Replies to the same.

Date.	CORRESPONDENTS.	Page.
18 April 1869	Mr. J. R. Mahon to the Board of Public Works, Dublin - - - - -	1
28 April "	The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to Mr. J. R. Mahon - - - - -	3
12 Mar. 1871	The Earl of Grenard to His Excellency Earl Spencer - - - - -	3
16 Mar. "	The Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant to the Secretary to the Treasury - - - - -	7
14 April "	The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to the Secretary to the Treasury - - - - -	8
8 June "	Mr. W. Law to the Commissioners of Public Works, Ireland - - - - -	9

COPY of the recent CORRESPONDENCE between Major General Mitchell and Mr. Holmes (on the part of the Sufferers in the Suck District), the Board of Works in Dublin, and the Treasury, relative to the DRAINAGE of the SUCK.

Date.	Correspondents.	Subject.	Page.
11 Nov. 1872	Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes to the Secretary to Board of Works, Dublin.	Before proceeding under Drainage Acts of 1863 and 1872, inquiring if the Board will object to the drainage of the Suck in the present state of the Shannon, "on the grounds that such drainage would injuriously affect the floods in that river."	9
26 Nov. "	The Secretary to Board of Works to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.	Acknowledgment - - - - -	10
1 Jan. 1873	Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Public Works.	Calling attention to their letter of 11th November, <i>supra</i> - - - - -	10
4 Jan. "	The Secretary to Board of Works to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.	Acknowledgment - - - - -	10
17 Jan. "	The Secretary to Board of Works to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.	The question of the drainage of the Suck District has been of late years so involved in that of the Shannon, that the Board defer a definite reply until the decision of Government and of Parliament has been given on the latter question, and which it is expected will be arrived at early in the approaching Session.	11
28 Jan. "	Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes to the Secretary to Board of Public Works, Dublin.	Will proceed with preliminary proceedings so as to be as far as possible in a state of completion on the part of the Suck proprietors, as soon as the sanction of Parliament is obtained for the improvement of the Shannon.	11

Date.	Correspondents.	SUMMARY.	Page.
28 Jan. 1878	The Secretary to Board of Works to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.	Acknowledgment - - - - -	12 c.
7 May "	Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes to the Secretary to the Board of Public Works.	Call attention to the case, and state that many tributaries of the Shannon have already been improved.	12
22 May "	The Secretary to Board of Works to the Secretary to the Treasury.	Transmitting copies of foregoing Correspondence, and requesting instructions as to whether the Board should consent to afford aid towards the Suck drainage, by granting a Provisional Order constituting a district.	12
7 June "	The Secretary to the Treasury to the Commissioners of Public Works.	The Treasury have no present intention of introducing a Shannon Bill; and as the drainage of the Suck depends upon the Shannon, any application for constituting the Suck lands into a drainage district must be declined.	13
10 June "	Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes to the Secretary to Board of Public Works.	River now in a most favourable state for a thorough combination. Request to be informed if the Commissioners are yet in a position to afford the information sought in the letter of 7th ultimo.	14
11 June "	The Secretary to Board of Public Works to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.	Board having submitted the question to the Treasury, are instructed to decline giving their consent to the formation of the Suck lands into a drainage district under the Act of 1863.	14
2 Aug. "	The Under Secretary for Ireland to the Secretary to the Board of Public Works.	Copy of a Resolution by the Grand Jury of the County of Galway, at the late Assizes, relative to the Suck and Shannon inundations.	14

COPIES of APPLICATIONS or REPRESENTATIONS made to the Shannon Navigation Commissioners by the Riparian Proprietors or others suffering from the INUNDATIONS of the Shannon, since the reported completion of the Works authorised under the Act 2 & 3 Vict. c. 61, with the Replies to the same.

Mr. J. R. Mahon to the Board of Public Works, Dublin.

Gentlemen,

Stokestown, 18 April 1869.

I SEND a paper furnished to me by Mr. Lynam, and showing the feasibility of carrying the drainage of a portion of the River Suck, about which I, in common with several others, are much interested. We believe that the proprietors of lands along the Shannon would prevent our carrying out our project unless we provided additional waterway in that river, and we cannot devise any other plan than that suggested by Mr. Lynam of having a sluice at Meelick.

I should have much preferred having had an interview with you on the subject, but did not get Mr. Lynam's paper in time to do so, when I was in Dublin, and I am detained here on business. However, if you think the plan at all feasible, I will go to Dublin about it as soon as I have leisure.

The work is one we have been seeking for more than 20 years.

Yours, &c.

The Board of Public Works,
Dublin.

(signed) John Ross Mahon.

(Enclosures.)

RIVER SUCK DRAINAGE.

At a Meeting held in Athlone, on the 25th March 1869, to promote the drainage of the River Suck district, the Right Hon. the Earl of Clanricthy in the Chair, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

The meeting having heard Mr. Lynam's statement, is of opinion that it would be desirable to form a drainage board for the drainage of the Lower Suck, the survey and estimate of the same to include the construction of 30 feet of self-regulating sluices in the Meelick Weir-Mound, provided that the Board of Works consent to the construction of those sluices for the purpose of giving the necessary outlet for the Suck waters.

That Mr. Lynam be requested to submit his views to the Board of Works, upon whose answer must depend the further proceedings of the River Suck proprietors for the drainage of the district.

Athlone, 25 March 1869.

A true copy. (signed) Clanricthy, Chairman.

(signed) James Lynam.

RIVER SUCK DRAINAGE.

Sir,

Rahen Lodge, Ballinasloe, 8 April 1869.

MORE than two-thirds of the owners of lands injured by the overflowing of the River Suck are anxious to get the part of that river from Athleague to the level of the Shannon improved, and the drainage of that important district effected under the provisions of the Acts 26 & 27 Vict. c. 83.

On the 25th ultimo the commencement of an organisation for this object was formed by a formal meeting of landowners and agents at Athlone.

It is considered essential that in a plan for the drainage of the Suck district provision should be made for improving the waterway of the Shannon at Meelick, to an extent that would compensate in times of flood for any extra influx of water into the Shannon by the drainage of the Suck.

The landowners of the Suck district would be willing to provide for such improvement of the waterway at Meelick, by constructing a sufficient line of sluice of the best known form in the weir-mound there.

They are ready to defray the cost of the necessary plans, estimates, &c., to have the project of the River Suck drainage district placed before the Board of Works and their

inspector, and to consent to the plan, if it be approved and recommended by the Board's inspector.

But it has been said to the landowners, that the Board of Works would never sanction the construction of sluices in the weir-mound at Meelick, but would at some stage of the proceedings arrange so as to prevent the final passing of my plan for the drainage of the Suck that would include a provision for constructing sluices in the Meelick Weir-Mound.

That would cause the loss of the money paid for maps, sections, valuations, estimates, inspection, meetings, &c., and would cause a great amount of disappointment and chagrin.

The meeting at Athlone, on the 25th ultimo, therefore passed a resolution, of which a copy is herewith attached, and requested me to submit my views on the subject to the Board of Works; this I now beg leave to do, and I further beg that as soon as conveniently may be, the Board will please to send me their reply.

My views are:

That the obstruction which the present anomalous and unparalleled state of the Shannon navigation works opposes to the drainage of the Suck district may be surmounted, and the Suck district below Athlone may be drained, without increasing the liability of injurious flooding of the lands bordering the Shannon from Athlone to Meelick, by constructing suitable and sufficient sluices in the Shannon Weir-Mound at Meelick.

Second. That such sluices may be constructed in that weir-mound, without causing any, even the smallest injury to the navigation.

I propose that the sluices should be placed on the County Galway side of the river, which is furthest from the sailing course. That they shall be so placed and hung as to be capable of being opened and closed in 10 minutes at every state of the river, and be quite closed and practically water-tight in dry summer weather. Let these questions be a *sine qua non*. The question which, on the part of the River Suck proprietors, I beg to ask the Board of Public Works, is, if a Committee of the River Suck proprietors, with Lord Clancarty at their head, present a petition, accompanied by the proper plans, estimates and valuations, to the Board of Works, and take the other necessary proceedings according to the provisions of the Acts 26 & 27 Vict. c. 88, would the Board of Public Works hand the documents to their inspector, S. N. Roberts, Esq., send him to the district, as in the other drainage projects, and leave it to him to decide on, first, the necessity and propriety of constructing sluices in the weir at Meelick, and on the nature, form, extent, site, and future management of such sluices; second, the necessity and propriety of constructing sluices in the Killoke or Castleconnell weirs, and at whose cost they should be constructed.

If the inspector, after full inquiry and consideration, should recommend the constitution of the Suck drainage district, and including a provision in the plan and estimate for constructing sluices in one or more of the Shannon weir-mounds, would the Board of Works, "if satisfied that the proprietors of two-thirds in value of the lands in the proposed district are in favour thereof, and have, subsequently to the report of such inspector, assented thereto in writing," and that all other necessary matters and things are as they should be, "make the provisional order under their seal, declaring the area in such Provisional Order a drainage district," notwithstanding the provision in the plan and estimate for constructing sluices in the Shannon Weir-Mound at Meelick.

The resolution passed at the Athlone meeting on the 25th ultimo, states that, "upon the Board's answer must depend the further proceedings of the River Suck proprietors for the drainage of the district."

Several gentlemen say that the Board of Works will not permit of or will use their power and influence to prevent, the construction of any even the smallest extent of sluice in any of the Shannon weir-mounds, not because of any real or apprehended injury they might cause to interests on the lower levels of the river, or to navigation, but to maintain the system devised and established by their predecessors in office.

I think differently, having a higher opinion of the motives that actuate the present Commissioners.

They are not in the least accountable for the mistakes of their predecessors.

Even that too often powerful incentive, "*l'esprit de corps*," can neither require nor induce them to persist against necessity, science, common sense, and public opinion.

The only extent to which they can feel themselves bound to prevent the construction of sluices in the Shannon is, that they may feel the Shannon Improvement Act binds them to prevent any interference with the present weir-mounds, which is the same as preventing any improvement of the Shannon river.

Now the legal proceedings provided by the Acts 26 & 27 Vict. c. 88, of sending the inspector to make all necessary inquiries with respect to the propriety of constituting the district, and hearing all objections to the plan, &c., and letting him decide on the propriety of the project and of the details, will relieve the Commissioners from that responsibility; a relief which I think should be very gratifying to them, because maintaining the Shannon weir-mounds as they are, and preventing the construction of sluices in them, is regarded by the landowners and the occupiers, by the press and the public, and by the engineering profession, as absurd and culpable. One eminent engineer has certainly ventured to say that sluices would injure the navigation without serving the drainage; but my papers in reply prove that he is mistaken, and he (Mr. Bateman) has subsequently proposed and recommended sluices for the Irwell river, at Manchester, where the navigation is far more important than on the Shannon. Several engineers who have considered

sidered the subject have condemned it as absurd to leave those weir-mounds without sluices. Sir John Fox Burgoyne and Mr. Rhodes officially recommended that sluices should be constructed in those very Shannon weir-mounds.

The very same gentlemen who built the Shannon mounds without sluices have subsequently drained several rivers where navigation and mill-power were to be maintained, and have in no case made solid weir-mounds, but have in every case made large sluices which are open in floods, as in the Corrib, at Galway, the Bann, near Coleraine, &c. Would the Commissioners of Public Works now recommend that the great sluices or falling boards in the weirs in the Corrib and the Bann should be permanently shut up as useless for drainage? Would the Commissioners, if consulted by the Emperor of the French as to the best mode of managing the Seine or the Marne, venture to recommend solid stone weir-mounds like those in the Shannon, as preferable to the beautiful and efficient "barrages mobiles," or movable wooden weirs, constructed in those navigable rivers?

True, Mr. J. F. Bateman, in his evidence before the Select Committee on the Shannon Works, in 1868, spoke disparagingly of those movable weirs, but this great mistake of his is accounted for by the fact that he never saw those weirs, and that he was misled as to their action by a very erroneous translation of a French book on the subject. This is clearly shown in a paper on this subject, of which I forward herewith a printed copy, begging the Commissioners to peruse it.

The argument that the navigation would be injured by sluices causing an increased rapidity of current in the sailing course is wholly answered by this, viz., the sluices may be placed at a distance from the sailing course, and they may be partly or wholly closed during the one or two hours out of 24 when steamers are passing. This would lessen the current as hitherto running in floods; the sluices might then be full open for 22 out of 24 hours.

As Commissioners for promoting useful public works in Ireland, you must naturally be anxious that so very necessary and useful a public work as the drainage of the River Suck district should be executed, and therefore you will very probably give a favourable reply to the application of the landowners of that district, now preferred through me.

I remain, &c.
(signed) James Lyne.

(5379-69.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to Mr. J. R. Mahon.

River Suck Drainage.

Sir,

Office of Public Works, 23 April 1869.

I AM directed by the Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, together with a paper by Mr. James Lyne, relative to the drainage of a portion of the River Suck, and to inform you that in the plans for the improvement of the Shannon, which are now before the Government, provision is made for carrying off the increased volume of water which the opening up of the River Suck for the drainage of its marginal lands would probably bring down; and that until a decision has been arrived at by the Government in regard to those plans, and on the general question to which they refer, the Board do not feel that they are in a position to entertain the project for the improvement of the Suck.

To John Ross Mahon, Esq.,
Strokestown.

I am, &c.
(signed) E. Horsely,
Secretary.

The Earl of Granard to His Excellency Earl Spencer.

My Lord,

Castle Forbes, 13 March 1871.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith to your Excellency memorials which have been transmitted to me for presentation to you from proprietors of lands on the Upper Shannon, which are injuriously affected by its frequent inundations.

These memorials are supplemented by memoranda, explanatory of the subjects alluded to in them, which enter so fully into details as to the actual state of the River Shannon, and as to the various Acts passed for its improvement, that I find it quite unnecessary to add anything to them, more especially as

your Excellency, from having been a Member of the Committee of the House of Lords in 1865, upon the Shannon Foundations, is already in possession of the fullest information respecting them.

I would wish, however, to draw your Excellency's attention to the resolutions, favourable to the objects of the Memorialists, passed by the Grand Juries of Roscommon and Leitrim at the recent assizes, and to express my earnest hope that the prayer of the Memorialists may meet with the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency Earl Spencer, K.O.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grouard.*

(Enclosures.)

THE SHANNON FOUNDATIONS.

To His Excellency Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland.

THE MEMORIAL of the Undersigned Owners of Lands Annually Injured by the Foundations of the Upper Shannon, between Tarmoharry and Lough Allen,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT 4,000 acres of land, between Tarmoharry and Lough Allen, are every year damaged by the overflowing of the Shannon river; the crops on that land are every autumn at the mercy of the elements, liable to be destroyed by one heavy fall of rain; and the outlets of several tributaries are obstructed, and the general drainage of the country is prevented.

That your Memorialists and their tenants have paid a very large sum of money to Her Majesty's Government for Shannon improvement works, under the Acts 3 & 6 Will. 4, c. 67, and 1 & 2 Vict. c. 91, on the faith of repeated strong and distinct official promises that those lands would be permanently relieved from inundations.

The failure of the works, as executed, to fulfill the promises made by the Government Commissioners by relieving the lowlands from injurious flooding, is easily explained by the following facts:—

1st. The works designed and proposed by the Commissioners, and by them delineated on the Parliamentary plans, and ordered by the Act to be "carried into full and complete execution," have not been fully executed, nor even nearly so. Large portions of the excavations at Tarmoharry, Rosky, and Jamestown, still remain to be excavated, and materially obstruct the flow of the flood waters.

2nd. The Commissioners, instead of placing proper regulating weirs at the falls, constructed great solid stone weir-mounds at Tarmoharry, Rosky, and Jamestown, without any sluice or flood-gate in any of them. Of the whole natural fall of 10 feet in the river, from Carnick-on-Shannon to the foot of the Tarmoharry Weir-Mound, one-half, or 5 feet, are wasted in useless cataracts over those three weir-mounds, viz., 5 feet at Tarmoharry, 1½ foot at Rosky, 1½ foot at Jamestown. One-half only of the natural fall is left in the surface of the river to propel the stream.

While the lands are covered by one to two feet of water, and the people see their crops rotting before their eyes, they see a clear fall of five feet over the Tarmoharry Weir, and three feet over the other two, which cannot be made use of to let off the floods, because there is no regulating weir; no sluice or flood-gate in the mounds.

The Commissioners of Public Works have officially stated, in a letter to Mr. Lyman, dated 22nd December 1868, "That until Parliamentary authority is given, the Board would consider it their duty to prevent any interference with the works of the Shannon navigation." Thus Memorialists are prevented from constructing sluices in the weir-mounds, or doing anything to regulate the flood waters, or promote the drainage of the district.

3rd. The Commissioners, by means of those weir-mounds, maintain "a depth of water which was not originally had down on the Parliamentary Plans, and which is totally at variance with that which is found sufficient for the navigation of other rivers and lakes in foreign countries." This is stated in the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Shannon, and it is repeated in a Treasury Minute, dated February 1870.

The navigation on the Upper Shannon for several years past has amounted to but one steam-vessel going up to Carnick-on-Shannon once a month, with 60 tons of flour, and returning empty.

Your Memorialists seek permission to construct sluices in those weir-mounds, or regulating weirs, which may be closed during dry summer weather, closed in wet weather for two half days each month, while the monthly steamer would be passing up and down, and opened

opened more or less, as may be necessary, to let off the surplus flood water, at all other times.

Your Memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that your Excellency may be pleased to procure that, in the Shannon Improvement Bill which Her Majesty's Government has arranged to lay before Parliament next Session, clauses may be inserted to provide for the following measures:—

1st. That the locks at Tannonberry, Rosky, and Jamestown may be immediately converted into regulating sluices, to relieve the lands from saturation in spring and autumn, and to facilitate the constructing of regulating weirs.

2nd. That the minimum depth of water on these lock-sills may be reduced to 4 ft. 10 in. in dry summer weather. This is the actual depth of water in dry summer weather on the sill of Annaghbeg Lock, near Limerick, through which the monthly steamer with the flour must pass.

3rd. That regulating weirs may be constructed in lieu of the present weir-mounds at Tannonberry, Rosky, and Jamestown, to let off the surplus floods, and to facilitate and cheapen the execution of the necessary excavations for the proper and complete drainage of the country, while maintaining 4 ft. 10 in. of water on the lock-sills for navigation.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

THE SHANNON INUNDATIONS.

MEMORANDA, EXPLANATORY OF THE MEMORIAL relative to the *Upper Shannon*.

1. A Bill to empower the Treasury to advance 100,000 £ as a free grant, and 100,000 £ as a loan for the improvement of the River Shannon, passed the Second Reading last Session of Parliament, and was then withdrawn, as the Session was nearly over. Public notice has recently been given that that Bill will be brought into Parliament by the Government early in the present Session; and it is said on good authority that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is really anxious to have the end in view accomplished.

2. It appears by a Treasury Minute, dated 2nd February 1870, addressed to the Marquis of Clanricarde, that the Government intend to expend the funds to be provided altogether on the three middle divisions of the Shannon from Castleconnell to Athlone, and to leave the Upper Shannon from Tannonberry to Lough Allen untouched.

3. It is here suggested that the owners of the flood-lands on the Upper Shannon could effect the regulating of the flood-waters and the relieving of the lowlands from injurious inundations, under the Drainage Act 26 & 27 Vict. chapter 88, with money borrowed from the Board of Works, far more speedily and more economically than the drainage of the Middle Shannon lands is likely to be accomplished under the provisions of the Government Bill, even with the proposed free grant in aid, if powers were obtained for re-adjusting the Parliamentary level of the water, and for constructing regulating weirs instead of the existing weir-mounds, in the falls of Jamestown, Rosky, and Tannonberry.

4. The natural fall in the Shannon in dry summer, from Carrick to the foot of Tannonberry Weir Mound, is 17 feet; in ordinary wet weather, 16 feet. Half of this natural fall of the river is wasted in useless eddies over the three weir-mounds, and one-half only is allowed to act in propelling the stream. Those weir-mounds were built across the river by the Shannon Commissioners; they are three to four feet broad on top, and backed with clay and stones. There is no sluice or floodgate whatever in any of them.

5. Two great evils result from those weir-mounds. When a heavy fall of rain occurs in autumn the flood-water entering the Shannon from all the tributary streams cannot pass off, but must accumulate in the river and loughs till they rise a foot or so higher than the head of the weir-mounds, and then it takes many days to fall to its previous level, even though no second rain-fall should occur; but if a second rain-fall occur in four or five days after the first, and a third some days later, each successive flood must rise higher than the previous one, in order to get a vent over the weir-mounds. This is just what occurred in August 1861; three heavy falls of rain occurred in six days, with rainless days between them.

6. In high floods all the valves would be open, the whole width of the river channel would be open for the passage of the river, and the whole natural fall of the river would be acting on the surface propelling the stream. Thus regulating weirs, even without excavations in other parts of the river, would save the lands from many a flood that materially damages the crops.

7. It is objected that with such weirs the navigation would be destroyed. Now, what is the navigation on the Upper Shannon? Mr. Digges La Touche, Chairman of the Grand Canal Company, stated in evidence to the House of Lords Committee in 1868, Question 175, &c., "We do not carry anything from Dublin to the Upper Shannon. From Limerick, of flour, I suppose we carry 50 tons a month." Generally one steamer goes up

from Limerick to Carrick-on-Shannon once a month with 40 tons of flour, and return empty. The Midland Great Western Company is now building two steamers, and they will probably trade from Dublin by the Royal Canal and the Upper Shannon; but it is much to be feared their trade will be small.

8. Even suppose that one steamer were to pass up, and one down, each day, her passage through the narrow part of the river, say, Roskealy, about a mile long, would take but 10 or 15 minutes. There would be no difficulty in closing part or the whole of the regulating weir during that time, and thus making a still-water navigation for the steamer through the strait. When in the lakes, of course there would be no current. At Jamestown the canal enters and leaves the river in broad deep water far from the weir, and no evil could result to the navigation from having the weir open in floods. At Tassanaherry the boats trading from the Royal Canal towards Carrick-on-Shannon will not pass through the Tarmon Lock, nor through the narrow channel above it; they will steam up by the Camlin River to Lough Forbes, which is a shorter and easier navigation. The minimum depth of water in summer, as hitherto maintained above Jamestown, is six feet, and downwards $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet. It is now proposed to lower it to 4 feet 10 inches, which is quite enough for steam navigation with the existing steamboats. The monthly steamer, with flour from Limerick to Carrick-on-Shannon, scarcely ever carries more than 42 tons, and with that cargo on her deck she draws but 4 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches standing, and can pass over a lock-sill, moving of course necessarily very slowly, with 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet; therefore 4 feet 10 inches of water, or even 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water, is quite enough for the lock-sills, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet on the few shoals. In fact, those steamers must pass the lock of Anaghbeg, near Limerick, where in summer there is but 4 feet 10 inches of water; and the bye-laws of the Board of Works expressly limit the draught of all boats to and from Limerick to a draught of 4 feet 10 inches. To pass through either the Grand or Royal Canal all boats must be limited to 4 feet 6 inches. There is neither necessity nor utility in keeping a greater depth in the Shannon than in the canals. To insist on higher water in the Shannon is not necessary for steam navigation, while it is a serious obstruction to the drainage, and a most grievous and irritating regulation. If those two measures were executed, viz.: if the water were fixed at 4 feet 10 inches on the lock-sills, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet on the shoals, and if regulating weirs were constructed instead of the present weir-mounds, very little expensive excavation would be required to let off the floods and protect the crops from inundations. This will be easily seen when it is remembered that the flood of August 1861, the most destructive remembered, was but $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep on the low land, and that for but six days, in one division, and but $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep in another, and then the fall lost by the three weirs amounted to six feet. In August 1861 there occurred three great falls of rain within six days, viz.: on the 13th, 14th, and 16th. There were in that space of three days without any rain. During the part of the month previous to the 11th there were six ordinary wet days, the rains of which, obstructed by the weir-mounds, were obliged to accumulate in the river and lakes $\frac{1}{2}$ foot over the Parliamentary level of the Shannon, and were going out over the lowest lands. Had there been regulating weirs there at that time the surplus waters would all have passed off, and the lakes would be three feet lower than they were on the 11th of August 1861, and the flood of that day would have done no harm to the crops by rising two feet. Similarly the surplus of the flood of the 11th would have passed off, to a great extent, on the 12th and 13th, which were rainless days, and room would be left in the lakes for the flood of the 14th. The flood of the 14th would have been let off on the 15th, which was rainless, and room would have been left for the flood of the 16th. After the 16th there were 14 rainless days. But the weir-mounds dammed up the outlets, and the floods fell at the rate of but one inch a day at Carrick-on-Shannon; at the end of 20 almost rainless days the flood had fallen but 20 inches. Occasional rainfalls then occurred, and the flood rose and fell slightly for 20 days more. During 10 days of August and 28 days of September 1861 the crops on all the lowlands were rotting under from one to one and a-half foot of flood water, while half the water-fall of the river was wasted in useless eddies over the weir-mounds, and one steamer only passed up the river with 40 tons of flour, and returned empty.

9. To effect a good drainage it is essential to make excavations at Jamestown (that is, to complete the work left undone there by the Commissioners) and at one or two other places; but the regulating weirs are the great desideratum. The Commissioners of Public Works have stated, in a letter to Mr. Lynam, dated Office of Public Works, Dublin, 23d December 1868, "that until Parliamentary authority is given the Board would consider it their duty to prevent any interference with the works of the Shannon navigation;" that is, with the weir-mounds. It is therefore necessary to procure such Parliamentary power. Although the Government has decided on doing nothing under their proposed Act of Parliament for improving the Upper Shannon, they can scarcely refuse to insert clauses in their Shannon Bill to permit of the execution of these proposed measures, at the cost of the landowners.

10. Converting the present locks into regulating sluices is a temporary measure, but a very cheap and simple one, and it would at once effect a valuable improvement of the lowlands. Nearly every year small floods occur in spring and autumn, which though merely stunting the ground, or covering it with a few inches of water, really do great injury to the crops. For instance, in March 1867, the Shannon was low, and a large area of land was sown with oats about Carrick-on-Shannon. In April a rise of the water occurred of
about

about a foot only, which was retained by the weir-mounds throughout April and May; up to the 18th of May nearly all the lowlands were saturated. The seed in the ground was rotted; the grass was prevented from growing for meadow or pasture; no cattle could be put on the pastures till June. This was a great loss. If the locks were open that spring, the small surplus of these light floods would have passed off all through the months of April and May; the tillage would have yielded a good crop, and the meadows would have grown earlier and better, would have been fit for mowing earlier, before the usual period of autumn flood; the crop on every acre of the lowlands would have been a pound more valuable. Similarly, small floods often occur in August and September, and do great harm. All such small floods would be prevented from doing any harm by the action of locks used as regulating sluices. The locks at Tarmoharry, Rosky, and Jamestown are 30 feet broad; the falls at them are eight feet, three feet, and six feet. In ordinary weather, between February and October, these sluices would let off so much water that the level of the river and loughs would be kept down to the navigation level, which the weir-mounds prevent. The influx from small floods would have to fill up three feet of the loughs before injuring the crops; and the accumulation would be let off before the next rain-fall, and so on.

11. The alteration required in the locks is, merely to take off the sheeting of part of the lower gate, and replace it with movable plank sheeting, which could be removed by being drawn up, and could be replaced in a few minutes. At each lock there is a careful man now living, and paid by the year, with but very little to do. On the approach of a boat coming up the river, he could in a few minutes slip down the sheeting planks, shut the upper gate, and let the boats pass upwards, leaving the gates shut until the boat would have passed up into the next lough. This would occur but once a month generally, but even if it should occur once a week, it may be easily and safely done. The sternboat generally comes down empty the following day after having gone up. The lock-keeper might close the lock early in the day in anticipation of the steamer's arrival, and after she would have passed through the lock, he could first close the lower gate, then open the upper gate, and then draw up the sheeting from the lower gate. There would then be large openings in the lower gate between the ribs, through which an immense quantity of surplus water would pass off. The lock-keeper, of course, would open the sluice judiciously; more or less, as he would see necessary to keep the water down to the navigation level, and no more, according to the figured flood-gauge at each lock. Of course, in dry summer weather the locks would be left quite shut.

12. On this principle the waters of the Seine, the Marne, and the Yonne, &c., in France, have been effectively regulated for many years. The Shannon is the only river in Europe obstructed by artificial weir-mounds without sluices.

13. The area of land flooded and injured by the Shannon inundations between Tarmoharry and Lough Allen is given by Messrs. Brassington and Lynam as 4,305 acres (see Mr. Lynam's Report, page 4).

14. Any one who compares the plans which were prepared by the Shannon Commissioners, and published by order of Parliament, with the present state of the works, may see that very large and important portions of those works, which the Act 1 & 2 Vict. c. 61, ordered to be carried into full and complete execution, have never been executed.

15. In December 1868, Mr. Lynam made a formal application to the Board of Works for permission to construct 20 lineal feet of sluice in the weir at Jamestown, offering a bond for a sum of money to insure that if the sluice would prove to be useless for the drainage, or injurious to the navigation, he would remove it and rebuild the wall. The Board refused permission.

It is respectfully requested that if the Commissioners of Public Works, or any one from them, contradict any statement in the memorial, or in the memoranda, they may be asked to do so formally in writing, and to state any facts and circumstances on which they may rely in support of their opinions, and that such written statement may be furnished to Mr. Lynam, C.E., Ballinasloe.

The Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 16 March 1871.

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the accompanying Memorials, which have been forwarded by the Earl of Granard from proprietors of lands on the Upper Shannon, praying for the insertion of certain clauses in the Shannon Improvement Bill.

I am, &c.

The Secretary, Treasury.

(signed) T. H. Burke.

(4,203-71.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Shannon Improvement Bill.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
14 April 1871.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to return herewith the accompanying reference of a letter from the Secretary for Ireland, dated 16th March 1871, (5130), enclosing memorials forwarded by the Earl of Granard from proprietors of lands on the Upper Shannon, praying for the insertion of certain clauses in the Shannon Improvement Bill; and, in reply, to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that in regard to the renewed allegations by the memorialists of the imperfections of the Shannon navigation works, and the consequences which result from them, the Board can only refer for the actual facts to the letter addressed by Mr. F. Peel to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and to the statements made by the Chairman of the Board, and of two of its officers, before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and printed in their Report, dated 18th May 1868. With reference to the clauses which the memorialists desire should be introduced into the Bill for the further improvement of the Shannon, which it is anticipated, having been withdrawn last Session, will be again brought forward during the present Session of Parliament, the Board beg to submit in regard to the first, viz.:

"That the locks at Tormontarry, Rooskey, and Jamestown, may be immediately converted into regulating sluices, to relieve the lands from saturation in spring and autumn, and to facilitate the construction of regulating weirs,"—

That the proposition is altogether inadmissible, as even if the objections, which hold as to the applications of the locks and their gates to purposes for which they were never intended, did not exist and the interference with the navigation was immaterial, yet the arrangement could only be carried out, and the benefit to the lands to be derived therefrom, obtained at the cost of injury to the lands on the reaches of the river below, until the countervailing works proposed on those lower reaches are completed.

With regard to the second clause, viz., "That the minimum depth of water on these lock-sills (Tarmonbarry, Rooskey, and Jamestown) may be reduced to 4 ft. 10 in. in dry summer weather,"—

The Board are of opinion that it would be highly inexpedient to permit the reduction of the depth of water proposed, and submit that the question of the clause should not be entertained.

With regard to the third clause, viz., "That regulating weirs may be constructed in lieu of the present weir mounds at Tarmonbarry, Rooskey, and Jamestown, to let off the surplus floods, and to facilitate and cheapen the execution of the necessary excavations for the proper and complete drainage of the country, while maintaining 4 ft. 10 in. of water on the lock sills for navigation,"—

It appearing from the third paragraph of the explanatory memoranda accompanying the memorial that it is the desire of the memorialists to be permitted to carry out the proposed works of relief under the provisions of the Act 26 & 27 Vict. c. 88, at their own cost; and that they seek only to obtain the necessary authority to interfere with the Shannon works. The Board would submit that the clause may be inserted, subject to the conditions that the proposed works shall be dependent on the carrying out and full completion of the works on the lower division of the river as contemplated by the Bill; the approval of the plans of this Board and their being carried out under such regulations as the Board may think proper to lay down.

The Secretary, Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. Horneby, Secretary.

Treasury, No. 4770,
27 March 1871.

Chairman's Statement,
27 April 1868
2).

(6355—71).

Mr. *W. Law* to the Commissioners of Public Works, Ireland.

Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 5 June 1871.

In reply to your Report of the 14th ultimo upon the Memorials from certain proprietors of lands on the Upper Shannon, which were referred to you on the 27th March, praying for the insertion of certain clauses in the Shannon Improvement Bill, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that the Bill in question will not be proceeded with.

I am, &c.

(signed) *William Law*.The Commissioners of Public Works,
Ireland.

COPY of the recent CORRESPONDENCE between Major General *Mitchell* and Mr. *Holmes* (on the part of the Sufferers in the Suck District), the Board of Works in Dublin, and the Treasury, relative to the DRAINAGE of the SUCK.

(14,863—72.)

Major General *Mitchell*, R.A., and Mr. *Holmes*, to the Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin.

Sir,

Roscommon, November 1872.

THE serious losses sustained this year along the whole valley of the "Suck," by the inundations of that river and its tributaries, has induced a few of the proprietors of some of the injured lands to turn their attention to the subject, and endeavour to ascertain whether the large body of those interested in the lands are disposed to avail themselves of the Drainage Acts of 1863 and 1872.

On reference to the Act 1863, it appears that in order to constitute an elective drainage district, certain preliminary proceedings, detailed in clause 6, are requisite. Those preliminary proceedings will entail an expense of some few hundred pounds, an outlay that must be borne by the originators of the plan, provided the Inspector of the Board of Works reports unfavourably of the project.

Before incurring the preliminary expenses required by the Act, of drawing up a petition, accompanied by plans, sections, and estimates, we have to request you will state whether the Commissioners of the Board of Public Works will raise any objection to the drainage of the Suck, "on the grounds that such drainage, in the present state of the Shannon, would injuriously affect the floods in that river."

The Brosna, Cuppagh, Killinor, and other tributaries of the Shannon were improved many years ago in a manner similar to that now proposed in the case of the Suck. The Commissioners have therefore, in the results of those rivers, full information to enable them to decide this special point. In the event of the Commissioners being of opinion that the artificial and other obstructions now existing in the "Suck," retarding the free flow of its waters, can be removed without any material effect upon the Shannon, such as can reasonably be objected to, steps will at once be taken to ascertain whether the requisite number of the proprietors of the lands in the valley of the Suck will make the advances requisite to defray the preliminary expenses, so as to constitute the Suck a drainage district under the Act of 1863.

We remain, &c.

(signed) *Jno. W. Mitchell*,*J. A. Holmes*,

Castle Strange, Roscommon.

The Secretary,

The Board of Works, Custom House, Dublin.

(14,863—72.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
26 November 1872.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the instant, relative to the drainage of the lands in the valley of the "Suck," and to state that a reply will be sent at as early a date as possible.

I am, &c.

(signed) E. Hornsby, Secretary.

Major General J. W. Mitchell, } Castle Strange,
J. A. Holmes, Esq., } Roscommon.

(138—73.)

Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Works, Dublin.

Castle Strange, Roscommon,
1 January 1873.

Sir,

We desire to call the attention of the Commissioners of Public Works to our letter of the November 1872, the receipt of which you acknowledged on the 26th of the same month (14,863—72).

The object of our letter was to make the Commissioners acquainted with the very serious losses constantly sustained, but especially last year, along the whole valley of the "Suck," by the inundations of that river, and to obtain from the Commissioners such advice and assistance as their experience will enable them to supply, so that those interested may, if permitted, undertake the works necessary for the effectual control of the waters of that river under the existing Acts of Parliament.

We remain, &c.
(signed) Jno. W. Mitchell,
J. A. Holmes.

The Secretary,
The Commissioners of Works,
Custom House, Dublin.

(138—73.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
4 January 1873.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, and to inform you that the chairman has gone to London, but that this matter will be again before the Board on his return.

I am, &c.

(signed) E. Hornsby, Secretary.

Major General J. W. Mitchell, R.A., }
J. A. Holmes, Esq., } Roscommon.

The day of the month was accidentally omitted in the original. It should be the 11th.

(138—73.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
17 January 1873.

Gentlemen,

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st instant relative to the serious losses sustained along the valley of the Suck by the inundations of that river, I am directed by the board to state that the question of the drainage of the Suck district has of late years been so involved in that of the improvement of the drainage of the lands bordering on the Shannon, that the Board think it necessary to defer giving a definite reply to the request made to them until the decision of Government and of Parliament has been given on the latter question, and which it is expected will be arrived at early in the approaching Session.

I am, &c.
(signed) E. Hornsby, Secretary.

Major General J. W. Mitchell, R.A., }
J. A. Holmes, Esq., } Roscommon.

(1004—73.)

Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes, to the Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin.

Castle Strange, Roscommon,
23 January 1873.

Sir,

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th instant (138—73).

SUCK DRAINAGE.

ON behalf of a number of the proprietors of the lands in the valley of the Suck, we desire to express our satisfaction that the question connected with the improvement of that great public river, the Shannon, upon which you state that of the Suck depends, will be brought under the consideration of Parliament by Her Majesty's Government at an early period in the approaching Session.

The very serious losses sustained annually by the occupiers of the low lands in the valley of the Suck, consequent upon inundations, and the privations and misery to which the inhabitants have been subjected, especially during the past year, renders it very desirable that as little delay as practicable should occur in the amelioration of this deplorable state of things.

We now, therefore, propose to acquaint the whole body of the proprietors of the lands in the valley of the Suck, and its tributaries, with the information contained in your letter of the 17th instant, so that as soon as the sanction of Parliament is obtained for the improvement of the Shannon, all preliminary arrangements may, as far as possible, be in a state of completion on the part of the Suck proprietors, to enable them to form a drainage board; and we trust the Commissioners will then also be prepared to obtain, during the next ensuing Session of Parliament, the Bill for the improvement of that of the Suck, as required by the Act of 1863.

We are, &c.
(signed) Jno. W. Mitchell.
J. A. Holmes.

The Secretary,
Board of Public Works, Dublin.

(1004—73.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes.

SUCK DRAINAGE.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,

28 January 1873.

Gentlemen,
I AM directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, relative to the drainage of the River Suck.

I am, &c.

(signed) E. Hornsby, Secretary.

Major General J. W. Mitchell, R.A., }
J. A. Holmes, Esq., } Roscommon.

(5701—73.)

Major General Mitchell, R.A., and Mr. Holmes, to the Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin.

Castle Strange, Roscommon,

7 May 1873.

Sir,
We desire to call the attention of the Commissioners of the Board of Works to our letter to you of the 11th November 1872, relative to the improvement of the River Suck.

In that letter we requested, before incurring the preliminary expenses required by the Drainage Act of 1863, that you would state whether the Commissioners of Public Works would raise any objection to the drainage of the River Suck, on the grounds that such drainage would, in the present state of the Shannon, injuriously affect the floods in that river.

Your letter of the 17th January 1873 informed us, "that the question of the drainage of the Suck district has of late years been so involved in that of the improvement of the lands bordering on the Shannon, that the Board think it necessary to defer giving a definite reply to them, until the decision of Government, and of Parliament, has been given on the latter question."

Many tributaries of the Shannon have already been improved in a manner similar to that now proposed in the case of the Suck, without injuriously affecting the floods in the Shannon. Indeed, the Shannon was in the same state as it now is when, in 1847, the Commissioners of Public Works prepared and recommended a project for the drainage of the "Suck." Upon reference to this it will be seen that there is a considerable fall at Pollboy Mill, below Ballinashoe, a fall which continues to exist even when the floods of the Shannon are at their highest.

It may be mentioned, that this mill has been in disuse for some years, and that if powers were obtained for the removal of its useless dam, a sufficient and very considerable outfall would be thereby provided for the waters of the Suck.

We are, &c.

(signed) Jno. W. Mitchell.
J. A. Holmes.

The Secretary
to the Commissioners of the Board of
Public Works, Dublin.

(5701—73.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to the Secretary to the Treasury.

RIVER SUCK DRAINAGE.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
22 May 1873.

Sir,

In transmitting copies of a correspondence which has taken place between the Commissioners of Public Works and certain proprietors of lands injured by the overflowing of the River Suck, relative to the improvement of that river, under the Arterial Drainage Act of 1863, I am directed to state that the Board desire to bring the circumstances connected with the case under the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, with a view to obtaining their Lordships' instructions in regard to the course which should be adopted.

This important river, which for the greater part of its course separates the counties of Roscommon and Galway, falls into the Shannon about mid-length of that reach, between Athlone and Meelick, on which are the most serious obstacles to a free discharge of its flood waters, and bordering on which is consequently by far the larger proportion of the injured lands, the condition of which has so frequently been the subject of public complaint.

The application therefore involves, in the reply to be given to it, two very important considerations or consequences with special reference to the question of the improvement of the Shannon, and the views which Her Majesty's Government may entertain in regard to it.

On the one hand, if the Board consent to afford the aid which the Act of 1863 authorises and directs, and to grant a Provisional Order, the proprietors on the lower reaches of the Shannon will, in the event of the works being carried out, be furnished with additional grounds on which to press their claims, so long urged, for the improvement of that river.

On the other hand, if the Board decline to sanction the work, the Suck proprietors will have just cause of complaint, and for uniting with the Shannon proprietors in supporting them in their demands.

It is true that nearly all the other tributaries of the Shannon, throughout the length of its course, have been opened up, and the Board have no reason to believe that the results have, in any appreciable degree, tended to aggravate the injuries the lands bordering the river are subject to; nor do they think that the improvement of the Suck would materially, if at all, affect the extent of flooding; but, without a doubt, increased injury would be attributed to it, which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to refute.

Under all the circumstances, the Board are of opinion that it would not be advisable to withhold the consent which the Suck proprietors ask for, to the improving of their river.

They beg, however, that they may be favoured with their Lordships' instructions.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. Hornsby, Secretary.

The Secretary, Treasury.

(5070.)

The Secretary to the Treasury to the Commissioners of Public Works, Ireland.

Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 7 June 1873.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had before them your Report of the 22nd ultimo, transmitting copies of correspondence which has passed between your Department and proprietors of land adjacent to the River Suck, and requesting instructions as to whether you should consent to afford

afford aid towards draining those lands by granting a Provisional Order constituting them a drainage district, I am to acquaint you that my Lords have no present intention of introducing a Shannon Bill, and as the drainage of the Suck depends upon the Shannon, any application for constituting the Suck lands into a drainage district must be declined.

I am, &c.
(signed)

Charles W. Stronge, pro Sec.

The Commissioners Public Works,
Ireland.

(7315-73.)

Major General *Mitchell, R.A.*, and Mr. *Holmes*, to the Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin.

WEEK—CASTLE COOTE.

Castle Strange, Roscommon,
10 June 1873.

Sir,
SINCE the subsidence of waters during the past month, the River Suck is now in a most favourable state to enable a thorough examination to be made of the numerous obstructions in its bed, which impede the free flow of its waters.

May we request you will inform us if the Commissioners are yet in a position to afford the information sought in a letter of the 6th ultimo, relative to the improvement of the river.

We are, &c.
(signed)

*Jno. W. Mitchell,
J. A. Holmes.*

The Secretary of the Board of Public Works,
Custom House, Dublin.

(7129-73.)

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin, to Major General *Mitchell, R.A.*, and Mr. *Holmes*.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
11 June 1873.

Gentlemen,
REFERRING to your communication of the 7th ultimo, relative to the improvement of the lands adjacent to the River Suck, I am directed to inform you that the Board, having submitted the question asked to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, are instructed by their Lordships to decline giving their consent to the formation of the Suck lands into a drainage district, under the Act of 1863.

I am, &c.
(signed)

*E. Hornsby,
Secretary.*

Major General *Mitchell, R.A.*, } Castle Strange,
J. A. Holmes, Esq., } Roscommon.

(10,385.)

The Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant to the Secretary to the Board of Public Works, Dublin.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 2 August 1873.

I AM directed by the Lords Justices to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Commissioners of Public Works, the accompanying copy of a resolution passed

by the Grand Jury of the County of Galway, at the late Assizes, relative to the Suck and Shannon inundations.

I am, &c.
(signed) *F. H. Burke.*

The Secretary to the Board of Public Works,
Custom House.

Enclosure.

Proposed by Honorable *L. G. Dillon*, seconded by *Michael Chivers, Esq.*

W^h, the Grand Jury of the County Galway, at Summer Assizes, desire to recall the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the application made in November last, on the part of the proprietors of the lands inundated and injured by the waters of the Suck, to be allowed to form these lands into drainage districts, under the Act of 1863, and to express their regret that in refusing that application the Government have shown so little encouragement to the spirit of enterprise and improvement thereby manifested.

The reason given for that refusal, that nothing could be done until the question of the Shannon was decided on, differs, in our opinion, an additional proof of the urgent necessity of measures for dealing with that river, the more especially as the riparian proprietors have been rendered powerless to act since the control over it passed into the hands of the Government, in the year 1851.

(signed) *Mitchell Henry,*
Foreman of Grand Jury.

24 July 1873.

RIVER SUCK (IRELAND)

ABSTRACT RETURN

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

THE PROPOSED DRAINAGE

OF THE

RIVER SUCK.

(Miser French.)

Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be Printed,
1 May 1791.
